

CLAIMS

What is claimed as invention is:

1. A pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus to alert approaching vehicle traffic to the presence of a pedestrian in a roadway crosswalk, said signal apparatus comprising:

a plurality of signal head members mounted on the roadway and at extending at least some distance above the surface of the roadway to at least partially designate a pedestrian crosswalk, each of said signal head members including at least one light source adapted to direct a beam of light adjacent to and generally parallel to the surface of the roadway and focused in the direction of the approaching vehicle traffic; and

activation means to selectively illuminate said plurality of signal head members light sources to warn the drivers of the approaching vehicles that the pedestrian has entered the crosswalk.

2. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 1 wherein said activation means comprises a mechanical pole-mounted switch.

3. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 1 wherein said activation means comprises a proximity actuated switch.

4. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 1 including an ambient light sensing circuit to adjust light intensity to dynamically compensate for poor visibility and night operating conditions.

5. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 1 including data storage circuitry connected to said activation means to collect additional data related to the activation of said apparatus.

6. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 5 including report generation circuitry connected to said data storage circuitry.

7. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 1 including solar power circuitry connected to said activation means to operate said activation means.

8. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 1 wherein said signal head members have an above-pavement height of 1/2 to 3/4 inches.

9. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 1 wherein said signal head light source comprises light emitting diodes.

10. The pedestrian crosswalk signal apparatus of claim 1 wherein said signal head light source is directed in a beam having a vertical angular range of 0 degrees to 5 degrees.

add